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Austrian People's Party

1. The APP in Tyrol is fast losing ground as the result of bad leadership. With Dr. Platzgummer's resignation from the chairmanship, this leadership question has again come into the foreground. As a result of the lack of any suitable successor, possessing the necessary political experience and simultaneously commanding the respect of the various groupings, the party is today torn by the intrigues of second-rate politicians thirsting for power.
2. At the head of the intriguers is Professor Dr. Gamper. At the annual conference of the OAAB (Oesterreichischer Arbeiter- und Angestellter-Bund) on 13 October 1946, Gamper succeeded in consolidating his position. He was re-elected chairman and managed to remove his opponent, Innsbruck's Deputy Mayor Kötter, from the vice-chairmanship in favor of a simple worker, a certain Erlor. Kötter, however, remains on the executive board of the OAAB. Another opponent of Gamper's, a certain Tipotsch, was removed from the executive board. Gamper suffered a reverse when his candidate for chief executive officer, Ernst Württele, was passed over in favor of Reiner of the Labor Chamber. In general, however, the outcome of the conference is a victory of Gamper's reactionary group over the more progressive wing.
3. Gamper scored another victory when, at a session of the executive board of the APP, he was appointed acting chairman of the party, pending the appointment of a successor to Dr. Platzgummer. The post of acting chairman should have gone to Landesrat Muigg, the peasant leader, as first deputy chairman; but Gamper waited until the very end of the meeting, when Muigg and his friends had left, before raising the question of the temporary chairmanship. As a result of this maneuver, he got the appointment.

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4. It seems that Gamper realizes that his chances of being confirmed as chairman of the party are slender. Consequently, he is sponsoring his brother-in-law, Grässle. Comment: For further information on Grässle and Dr. Gamper, see

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Working against him is the "grey eminence" of the APP in Tyrol, Hans Bador, the man who discovered and made Kurt Schuschnigg. Bador is sponsoring Dr. Lagger, the candidate of the younger and more liberal elements.
Comment: For further information on the APP in Tyrol, see

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5.

6. Landeshauptmann Weissgatterer refused to commit himself. He merely assured Gamper would not be elected.

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The election of the new chairman is due to take place at the annual APP delegates' conference, scheduled for 17 November 1946. Both Chancellor Figl and State Secretary Graf have announced their intention of visiting the Tyrol to attend this conference.

7. Major Franz Molling

Major Molling is another of the intriguers. His closest associates today are Dr. Hans Blaas, who attacked Gruber in front of the Innsbruck Landhaus on 27 September 1946, and Landesrat Dr. Oberhofer, who is about to retire from the Tyrolean Government. These three are still working for an independent and autonomous Tyrol. They are also still out for Gruber's blood, collecting material against him and seeking out anybody who is prepared to speak against him. An associate of this group is apparently the Dr. Grossmann whom the French once brought to Innsbruck as Police Director and who is now working for them in Baden. Recently, Grossmann told an acquaintance whom he met on the Arlberg express that the salvation of Tyrol lay in the appointment of Molling as Landeshauptmann.

8. New Tyrolean Bundesrat

The SP in Tyrol has decided to nominate Ludwig Klein, editor of their local newspaper, Die Volkszeitung, as the Socialist Bundesrat for Tyrol. Klein's nomination will be submitted to the next session of the Tyrolean Diet. The APP deputies have decided to vote neither for nor against him. They will, however, attack his nomination on the grounds that a Tyrolean worker would have been more suitable than "a Viennese Jew" who has lived in Tyrol for little more than a year.

9. Austrian Socialist Party

The SP is profiting from the present disintegration of the APP. It has received a tremendous boost through its overwhelming success in the railroad employees' elections and is convinced that it will be returned to power at the next general elections. Today it is seeking to win over some of the more respected and progressive APP supporters by assuring them that the forthcoming Socialist government will be drawn exclusively from the party's moderate wing. In this it is meeting with a certain success; some of those whom it has approached argue that it is better to seek to exercise a restraining influence on the SP than to continue their vain attempts to resuscitate the APP.

Morale of the Population

10. Local morale is deteriorating daily. On top of the blow concerning the status of the South Tyrol and the catastrophic food situation, came the electric power crisis. This, incidentally, strengthened the separatist movement in Tyrol, and caused bitter complaints against Vienna. Chancellor Figl wrote to Professor Gamper, reprimanding him for an article attacking Vienna.
11. The Communists are naturally doing their best to exploit the situation, increasing their propaganda efforts, organizing food demonstrations, etc. Perhaps even more dangerous are the Nazis who are preaching everywhere the advantages of dictatorship. The cry for "a strong man" to take over is daily growing louder; while from former anti-Nazis such remarks as "It would have been better, after all, had we won the war" can be heard everywhere.